

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUB: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE

FOLLOWING COMMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO MEMBERS OF MISSION DURING PAST TWO WEEKS BY VARIETY OF INDONESIAN INTELLECTUALS, EDUCATORS, PRESS FIGURES, STUDENTS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF EDUCATED PUBLIC. MOST FREQUENTLY HEARD COMMENTS WERE NOS 1 THROUGH 3 BELOW.

1. INDONESIANS WHO BEAR GRUDGE AGAINST NEW ORDER WILL BE ENCOURAGED BY COMMUNIST SUCCESSES IN INDONCHINA. INDONESIAN COMMUNISTS WHO MAY EMERGE AND BECOME ACTIVE AGAIN WILL BE NEITHER PRO-RUSSION NOR PRO-CHINESE BUT NATIONAL COMMUNISTS.

2. INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WILL PREVAIL AGAINST ANY INSURGENCY WITHOUT OUTSIDE HELP WHICH INDONESIANS DO NOT WANT AND WOULD RESIST. RELIGIOUS FACTORS, NATIONAL UNITY AND MILITARY PREPAREDNESS ARE INDONESIA'S
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PRINCIPAL RESOURCES AGAINST COMMUNISM. ALTHOUGH

INDONESIA CAN PROTECT ITSELF, HOPEFULLY US WILL NOT
WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM SEA.

3. INDONESIA GOVERNMENT MUST STRESS SOCIAL JUSTICE,
REDUCE CORRUPTION AND NOT OVER-REACT TO POSSIBLE
INSURGENCY BY EXCESSIVE PRESSURE ON "HEALTHY OPPOSITION GROUPS."

4. GROUP OF STUDENTS FROM MAJOR INDONESIA UNIVERISTY
INDICATED THEIR PRIMARY CONCERN RE INDONCHINA SITUATION
WAS OVER SUFFERING OF PEOPLE IN VIETNAM AND DISRUPTION
LIVES OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS THERE, RATHER THAN
IDEOLOGICAL ISSUES. STUDENTS ALSO CONCERNED THAT INTERNAL
STRIFE MAY ARISE WITHIN INDONESIA BUT FELT THAT GOVERN-
MENT STRONG AND STABLE ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND ANY INSURGENCY.
INDONESIAN STUDENTS SAID TO BE REMAINING QUIET BUT
DISCUSSING AMONG SELVES INDOCHINA IMPLICATIONS AND SOCIAL
PROBLEMS IN INDONESIA SUCH AS PRICES OF FOOD, CLOTHING,
SUGAR AND EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS. IF BASIC FOOD PRICES GET
OUT OF CONTROL, STUDENTS MAY BE HEARD FROM. PERTAMINA'S
FINANCIAL PLIGHT ALSO WORRIES THEM.

5. ONE INTELLECTUAL EXPRESSED FEAR AMERICA MIGHT
OVER-RACT TO WORLD PRESS CRITICISM AND BE INDUCED
PROVIDE TROOPS FOR VN WHICH INADVERTENTLY WOULD BECOME
INVOLVED VIA EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE. ISSUE NOW IS NOT
SO MUCH AMERICA'S CREDIBILITY VIS-A-VIS VIETNAM BUT US
ABILITY TO REASSESS SITUATION AND MAKE NEW COMMITMENT
WHICH CAN REALISTICALLY BE FILLED.

6. SOME COMMENTS HAVE BEEN HEARD TO THE EFFECT THAT THE
US SHOULD NOT BE BLAMED FOR THE DISASTER IN VIETNAM.
PRESIDENT THIEU AND HIS REGIME HAVE TO BEAR THE MAJOR
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR FAILURE BECAUSE THEY DID NOT USE
WELL THE MASSIVE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID WHICH THE
US PROVIDED FOR MANY YEARS.

7. INITIAL REACTION FROM SEVERAL SOURCES TO RELEASE
OF MOCHTAR LUBIS ONE OF HOPE AND RELIEF. ACTION TAKEN
AS INDICATION THAT GOI MAY NOT BE AS LOCKED INTO
REPRESSIVE APPROACH AS SOME INDONESIANS HAD BELIEVED.
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8. SEVERAL COMMENTS QUESTIONING LOYALTY DOMESTIC
INDONESIAN CHINESE IN CONTEXT INCREASED COMMUNIST THREAT
AS WELL AS ABILITY OF THAI (IN VIEW OF HISTORIC THAI
ACCOMMODATION POLICIES) TO WITHSTAND EXTERNAL PRESSURES
FROM COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS SUGGEST SLIGHT INCREASE IN
INSECURITIES AND ETHNIC SUSPICIONS IN REACTION TO INDO-
CHINA EVENTS.

PROGRAM

MCLAIN FAMILY BAND HERALDED THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR IN
SERIES PERFORMANCES AND APPERANCES IN JAKARTA WHICH
BROKE BOX OFFICE RECORDS FOR ONE THEATER AND DREW
EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE. BAND PROVIDES A HEALTHY BREATH
HOMESPUN AMERICANA. BAND OFFERS BEST OF BLUEGRASS IN
FAMILY BAND TRADITION, AND SOCKS IT HOME WITH FIRSTHAND
CHARM AND HONESTY IMPOSSIBLE TO RESIST. POST SUGGESTS
CU/CP SERIOUSLY CONSIDER UNDERWRITING FEATURE PERFORMANCES
BY BAND DURING BICENTENNIAL.
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